
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 5, 1893.—Referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McMILLAN presented the following:

MEMORIAL FROM THE CITIZENS OF BESSEMER, MICH., PROTESTING AGAINST PUTTING IRON ON THE FREE LIST.

To the Senate of the United States:

The citizens of the city of Bessemer, in the county of Gogebic and State of Michigan, regardless of party or political affiliations, in meeting assembled, view with alarm the reported action of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress in recommending that iron ore be placed upon the free list, and respectfully submit for your consideration:

That during the year 1892 the number of men directly employed in the mines of this county in the mining of iron ore was not less than 6,000, whose average wage-earning power was from \$350,000 to \$400,000 monthly.

In addition there was expended by the mines monthly for mining timber, wood, lagging, and mining supplies \$150,000 to \$200,000, which indirectly gave employment to over 1,000 additional workmen, and that the prosperity of this county and its people is dependent almost wholly upon the prosperity of the iron industries.

Owing to doubts, fears, and uncertainty as to the policy of the General Government relative to the protection of American industries and American labor, and especially as to the reported intention to change existing tariff schedules and class iron ore as raw material and place it upon the free list, every mine in this county has been closed down to await the settlement of tariff legislation, and that thousands of laborers have been thrown out of employment and are unable to obtain work at any price, and that much want and suffering exists in this community in consequence.

The only labor now employed in this county is that engaged in manning the pumps and keeping the mines free from water, and that the whole number thus employed will not exceed 400 men, all told, whose average monthly earnings will not exceed \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Thousands of men in this county, able and willing to work, are unable to secure employment, are in actual want, and hundreds of honest and deserving families are in consequence obliged to ask public aid and subsist on public charity.

The expenditures for poor purposes in the county of Gogebic during the year 1892 did not exceed \$10,000, and that the expenditures of eight months in the present year have already exceeded \$25,000, and that owing to the approach of winter and the destitution and want

existing in this section the expenditures for poor purposes must be greatly increased.

Owing to the calls made upon it the funds of this county available for poor purposes have been exhausted, and all funds available for other purposes have been applied to relieve want and suffering among our people, and that the county treasury is now empty and there will be no funds therein available for any purpose before March 1, 1894.

To relieve the pressing necessities of the poor orders are being issued by the commissioners, but that, owing to there being no available funds to take up such orders, the same are becoming valueless, and that unless the mines resume work at an early date great suffering and distress will result.

Investigation shows that there are in this city alone 100 families, about five hundred persons, mostly women and children, dependent upon public charity and in pressing need of immediate assistance in the shape of food and clothing to relieve their wants, and that the condition of affairs in other sections of the county is comparatively no better than the condition of affairs in this city.

There is no probability of resumption of work by the mines in this section while the agitation of tariff schedules continues, nor until the policy of the National Government in reference to the iron and steel industries has been definitely settled in favor of protection.

The classing of iron ore as raw material and placing it upon the list of articles to be admitted free of duty will be destructive to the mining industries of this section and the prosperity of our people, and we respectfully, but none the less earnestly, protest against such contemplated action by the Administration and the present Congress, and urge not only that the present duty be retained but increased as well, believing that such action would bring to the depressed industries of our section a return of its past prosperity.

We respectfully submit that iron ore in its natural state and in place in the earth, before human labor has been expended upon it, is raw material, and its value is determined by the royalty demanded upon it by the owners of the soil, which on this range averages 35 cents per ton. The cost of a ton of iron ore delivered to the furnaces at Lake Erie points is \$3.96, made up as follows:

Mining	\$0.72
Tramming .....	.13
Pumping .....	.10
Loading .....	.07
Hoisting .....	.12
Timbering .....	.25
Miscellaneous, insurance, and incidentals .....	.02
Taxes .....	.06
Exploring and development .....	.25
Maintaining of and additions to buildings and equipment .....	.09
Royalty .....	.35
Railroad and lake freight	1.65
Commission and insurance .....	.15
Total	3.96

To which must be added the cost of superintendence and interest on the capital invested. And we protest against iron ore being classed as raw material when more than ten-elevenths of its value at the furnace, where it is consumed, consists of the labor and cost of its production and transportation.

The iron ore from our mines, loaded for transportation to the furnace, is the finished product of our people. The finished product of our

mines is the raw material of the producers of pig iron, and what is the finished product of one industry is ever the raw material of the next in the ascending scale of manufactures.

We submit that every article into which human labor has entered and has increased or multiplied its value, in order to render it available for the use of man, has ceased to be raw material, and we demand, as a matter of simple justice, that the product of American labor, whether in the forest or on the farm, in the factory or in the deepness and darkness of the mine, shall be protected, to the end that the American markets be reserved for American labor and be freed from competition for bare existence with the cheaper and degrading conditions surrounding the labor of other lands.

We, therefore, sincerely but earnestly protest against iron ore being classed as raw material and placed among the list of articles admitted free of duty, and we ask, in the name of common humanity, in the name of our desolated homes and suffering poor, that this nation be not committed to a policy that must prove destructive alike to its industries and the prosperity of its people.

We hereby certify that at a meeting of the citizens of Bessemer, Gogebic County, Mich., on November 25, 1893, the foregoing memorial was adopted by a unanimous vote, and that the committee of eight drafting and reporting the same was composed of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, appointed and chosen by the meeting for that purpose.

WILLIAM H. PRINCE,
Chairman of said meeting.

ALEX TROM,
Secretary of said meeting.



